

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN  
NORTHERN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

Case No. 2:12-cr-28

v.

HON. ROBERT HOLMES BELL

ROBERT MERRILL SAUNDERS,

Defendant.

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**REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION**

Pursuant to W.D. MICH. L.CR.R. 11.1, I conducted a plea hearing in the captioned case on February 12, 2013, after receiving the written consent of defendant and all counsel. At the hearing, defendant ROBERT MERRILL SAUNDERS entered a plea of guilty to Count One of the Superseding Felony Information, charging defendant with Distribution of Fentanyl, in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1); 21 U.S.C. § 841 (b)(1)(C) and 21 U.S.C. § 860(a), in exchange for the undertakings made by the government in the written plea agreement. On the basis of the record made at the hearing, I find that defendant is fully capable and competent to enter an informed plea; that the plea is made knowingly and with full understanding of each of the rights waived by defendant; that it is made voluntarily and free from any force, threats, or promises, apart from the promises in the plea agreement; that the defendant understands the nature of the charge and penalties provided by law; and that the plea has a sufficient basis in fact.

I therefore recommend that defendant's plea of guilty to Count One of the Superseding Felony Information be accepted, that the court adjudicate defendant guilty, and that the written plea

agreement be considered for acceptance at the time of sentencing. It is further recommended that the order setting conditions of defendant's release remain in effect pending sentencing. Acceptance of the plea, adjudication of guilt, acceptance of the plea agreement, determination of defendant's status pending sentencing, and imposition of sentence are specifically reserved for the district judge.

Date: February 12, 2013

/s/ Timothy P. Greeley  
TIMOTHY P. GREELEY  
United States Magistrate Judge

#### **NOTICE TO PARTIES**

You have the right to de novo review of the foregoing findings by the district judge. Any application for review must be in writing, must specify the portions of the findings or proceedings objected to, and must be filed and served no later than fourteen days after the plea hearing. *See* W.D. MICH. L.CR.R. 11.1(d).